Cancler, John ("The Baptist")

JFK assassination records appeals Harold Weisberg 3/3/80
FBI's voluntary disclosure of sources
Records not searched, including New Orleans and about John (The Baptist) Cancler

The original of a not recorded serial of 6/5/69 in 62-109060 is in a file the number of which is not legible on the copy provided to me. While the caption alleges a civil rights violation by a prisoner, John W. Cancler, the New Orleans number, 62-4104 (C) is not a Civil Rights number or file. In fact this is a Garrison record, Jim Garrison allegedly violating Cancler's rights.

On the first page one paragraph begins, "Mr. CANCLER furnished information regarding an alleged narcotics dealer in New Orleans, La., ..." In this case the possibility of harm to Cancler is real if his information was real and identified a person by name as a narcotics dealer. This is not the only such case but at the same time the FBI extensively withholds the names of non-confidential sources where there is neither expressed nor implied confidentiality.

Cancler, also known as "John The Baptist," as this record does not indicate, was an experienced burglar who apparently invented a story that some of the regular New Orleans police assigned to Garrison's office as investigators promised him something if instead of burglarizing Clay Shaw's home planted some incriminating evidence there. The story was spread by lawyers representing clients in whom Garrison had an interest. It was told to me by three reporters in April 1967, in New Orleans. Thereafter it was published.

In the past I have called to your attention several unsearched Garrison files. These files also held Garrison information, perhaps information not otherwise disclosed by FBIHQ or in my C.A. 78-0322.